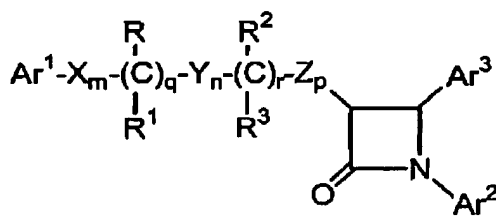


**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:  
 (a) at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (I):



(I)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (I) or of the isomers thereof,  
wherein:

Ar¹ and Ar² are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl and R⁴-substituted aryl;

Ar³ is aryl or R⁵-substituted aryl;

X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -CH(lower alkyl)- and -C(dilower alkyl)-;

R and R² are independently selected from the group consisting of -OR⁶, -O(CO)R⁶, -O(CO)OR⁹ and -O(CO)NR⁶R⁷;

R¹ and R³ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and aryl;

q is 0 or 1;

r is 0 or 1;

m, n and p are independently selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; provided that at least one of q and r is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, q and r is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; and provided that when p is 0 and r is 1, the sum of m, q and n is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

R⁴ is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, -OR⁶, -O(CO)R⁶, -O(CO)OR⁹, -O(CH₂)₁-₅OR⁶, -O(CO)NR⁶R⁷, -NR⁶R⁷, -NR⁶(CO)R⁷, -NR⁶(CO)OR⁹, -NR⁶(CO)NR⁷R⁸, -NR⁶SO₂R⁹, -COOR⁶, -CONR⁶R⁷, -COR⁶, -SO₂NR⁶R⁷, S(O)₀-₂R⁹, -O(CH₂)₁-₁₀-COOR⁶,

-O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-10</sub>CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, -(lower alkylene)COOR<sup>6</sup>, -CH=CH-COOR<sup>6</sup>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -CN,  
-NO<sub>2</sub> and halogen;

R<sup>5</sup> is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of  
-OR<sup>6</sup>, -O(CO)R<sup>6</sup>, -O(CO)OR<sup>9</sup>, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-8</sub>OR<sup>6</sup>, -O(CO)NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, -NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>,  
-NR<sup>6</sup>(CO)R<sup>7</sup>, -NR<sup>6</sup>(CO)OR<sup>9</sup>, -NR<sup>6</sup>(CO)NR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>, -NR<sup>6</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, -COOR<sup>6</sup>, -CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>,  
-COR<sup>6</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, S(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>9</sup>, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-10</sub>-COOR<sup>6</sup>, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-10</sub>CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>,  
-(lower alkylene)COOR<sup>6</sup> and -CH=CH-COOR<sup>6</sup>;

R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of  
hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted lower alkyl; and

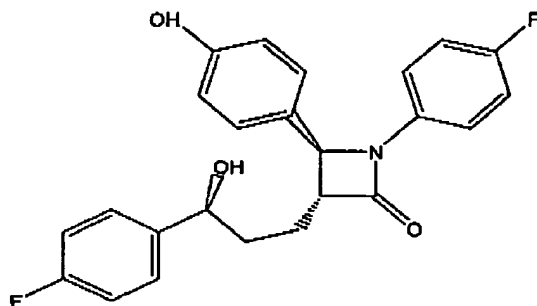
R<sup>9</sup> is lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl

~~or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof or prodrug of the at~~  
~~least one sterol absorption inhibitor or of the salt or solvate thereof; and~~

(b) at least one cardiovascular agent for treating vascular conditions  
selected from the group consisting of channel blockers, adrenergic blockers,  
adrenergic stimulants, angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors,  
antihypertensive agents, angiotensin II receptor antagonists, anti-anginal agents,  
coronary vasodilators, diuretics and combinations thereof which is different from the  
~~at least one sterol absorption inhibitor.~~

2. (Cancel).

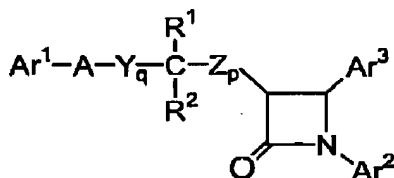
3. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 12, wherein  
the sterol absorption inhibitor is represented by Formula (II) below:



(II)

or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof, or prodrugs of the  
compound of Formula (II) or of the salts or solvates thereof.

4. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one sterol absorption inhibitor is represented by Formula (III):



(III)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (III) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (III) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (III) above:

Ar<sup>1</sup> is R<sup>3</sup>-substituted aryl;

Ar<sup>2</sup> is R<sup>4</sup>-substituted aryl;

Ar<sup>3</sup> is R<sup>5</sup>-substituted aryl;

Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH(lower alkyl)- and -C(dilower alkyl)-;

A is selected from -O-, -S-, -S(O)- or -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-;

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of -OR<sup>6</sup>, -O(CO)R<sup>6</sup>, -O(CO)OR<sup>9</sup> and -O(CO)NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>; R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and aryl; or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together are =O;

q is 1, 2 or 3;

p is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R<sup>5</sup> is 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of -OR<sup>6</sup>, -O(CO)R<sup>6</sup>, -O(CO)OR<sup>9</sup>, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-5</sub>OR<sup>9</sup>, -O(CO)NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, -NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, -NR<sup>6</sup>(CO)R<sup>7</sup>, -NR<sup>6</sup>(CO)OR<sup>9</sup>, -NR<sup>6</sup>(CO)NR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>, -NR<sup>6</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl, -NR<sup>6</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>-aryl, -CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, -COR<sup>6</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, S(O)<sub>0-2</sub>-alkyl, S(O)<sub>0-2</sub>-aryl, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-10</sub>-COOR<sup>6</sup>, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-10</sub>CONR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, o-halogeno, m-halogeno, o-lower alkyl, m-lower alkyl, -(lower alkylene)-COOR<sup>6</sup>, and -CH=CH-COOR<sup>6</sup>;

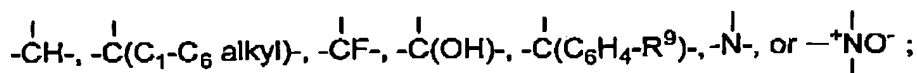


-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenylene)-; and

-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>f</sub>V-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>g</sub>-, wherein V is C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkylene, f is 1-5 and g is 0-

5, provided that the sum of f and g is 1-6;

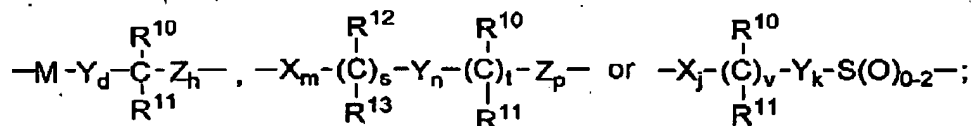
R<sup>6</sup> is selected from:



R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)-, -C(di-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl))- , -CH=CH- and -C(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)=CH-; or R<sup>6</sup> together with an adjacent R<sup>6</sup>, or R<sup>6</sup> together with an adjacent R<sup>7</sup>, form a -CH=CH- or a -CH=C(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)- group;

a and b are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero; provided that when R<sup>6</sup> is -CH=CH- or -C(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)=CH-, a is 1; provided that when R<sup>7</sup> is -CH=CH- or -C(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)=CH-, b is 1; provided that when a is 2 or 3, the R<sup>6</sup>'s can be the same or different; and provided that when b is 2 or 3, the R<sup>7</sup>'s can be the same or different;

and when Q is a bond, R<sup>1</sup> also can be selected from:



where M is -O-, -S-, -S(O)- or -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-;

X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)- and -C(di-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl))-;

R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of -OR<sup>14</sup>, -O(CO)R<sup>14</sup>, -O(CO)OR<sup>18</sup> and -O(CO)NR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>;

R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl and aryl; or R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> together are =O, or R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> together are =O;

d is 1, 2 or 3;

h is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

s is 0 or 1; t is 0 or 1; m, n and p are independently 0-4; provided that at least one of s and t is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, s and t is 1-6; provided that when p

is 0 and t is 1, the sum of m, s and n is 1-5; and provided that when p is 0 and s is 1, the sum of m, t and n is 1-5;

v is 0 or 1;

j and k are independently 1-5, provided that the sum of j, k and v is 1-5;

$R^2$  is 1-3 substituents on the ring carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $(C_1-C_{10})$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_{10})$ alkenyl,  $(C_2-C_{10})$ alkynyl,

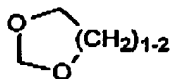
$(C_3-C_6)$ cycloalkyl,  $(C_3-C_6)$ cycloalkenyl,  $R^{17}$ -substituted aryl,  $R^{17}$ -substituted benzyl,

$R^{17}$ -substituted benzyloxy,  $R^{17}$ -substituted aryloxy, halogeno,  $-NR^{14}R^{15}$ ,

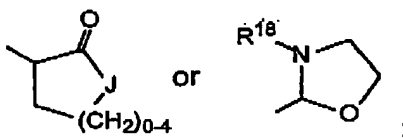
$NR^{14}R^{15}(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})$ ,  $NR^{14}R^{15}C(O)(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})$ ,  $-NHC(O)R^{16}$ ,

OH,  $C_1-C_6$  alkoxy,  $-OC(O)R^{16}$ ,  $-COR^{14}$ , hydroxy $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy $(C_1-$

$C_6)$ alkyl,  $NO_2$ ,  $-S(O)_{0-2}R^{16}$ ,  $-SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$  and  $-(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})COOR^{14}$ ; when  $R^2$  is a

substituent on a heterocycloalkyl ring,  $R^2$  is as defined, or is  $=O$  or  ;

and, where  $R^2$  is a substituent on a substitutable ring nitrogen, it is hydrogen,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, aryl,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, aryloxy,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, hydroxy,  $-(CH_2)_{1-6}CONR^{18}R^{18}$ ,



wherein J is  $-O-$ ,  $-NH-$ ,  $-NR^{18}$  or  $-CH_2-$ ;

$R^3$  and  $R^4$  are independently selected from the group consisting of 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $-OR^{14}$ ,  $-O(CO)R^{14}$ ,  $-O(CO)OR^{16}$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^{14}$ ,  $-O(CO)NR^{14}R^{15}$ ,  $-NR^{14}R^{15}$ ,  $-NR^{14}(CO)R^{15}$ ,  $-NR^{14}(CO)OR^{16}$ ,  $-NR^{14}(CO)NR^{15}R^{19}$ ,  $-NR^{14}SO_2R^{16}$ ,  $-COOR^{14}$ ,  $-CONR^{14}R^{15}$ ,  $-COR^{14}$ ,  $-SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$ ,  $S(O)_{0-2}R^{16}$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}COOR^{14}$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^{14}R^{15}$ ,  $-(C_1-C_6 \text{ alkylene})COOR^{14}$ ,  $-CH=CHCOOR^{14}$ ,  $-CF_3$ ,  $-CN$ ,  $-NO_2$  and halogen;

$R^8$  is hydrogen,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, aryl  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $-C(O)R^{14}$  or  $-COOR^{14}$ ;

$R^9$  and  $R^{17}$  are independently 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy,  $-COOH$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $-NR^{14}R^{15}$ , OH and halogeno;

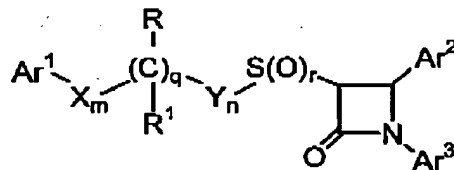
$R^{14}$  and  $R^{15}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl;

$R^{16}$  is  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, aryl or  $R^{17}$ -substituted aryl;

$R^{18}$  is hydrogen or  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; and

$R^{19}$  is hydrogen, hydroxy or  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy.

6. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one sterol absorption inhibitor is represented by Formula (V):



(V)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (V) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (V) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (V) above:

$Ar^1$  is aryl,  $R^{10}$ -substituted aryl or heteroaryl;

$Ar^2$  is aryl or  $R^4$ -substituted aryl;

$Ar^3$  is aryl or  $R^5$ -substituted aryl;

X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of  $-CH_2-$ ,  $-CH(\text{lower alkyl})-$  and  $-C(\text{dlower alkyl})-$ ;

R is  $-OR^6$ ,  $-O(CO)R^6$ ,  $-O(CO)OR^9$  or  $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$ ;  $R^1$  is hydrogen, lower alkyl or aryl; or R and  $R^1$  together are  $=O$ ;

q is 0 or 1;

r is 0, 1 or 2;

m and n are independently 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5; provided that the sum of m, n and q is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

$R^4$  is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl,  $-OR^6$ ,  $-O(CO)R^6$ ,  $-O(CO)OR^9$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$ ,  $-O(CO)NR^6R^7$ ,

$-NR^6R^7$ ,  $-NR^6(CO)R^7$ ,  $-NR^6(CO)OR^9$ ,  $-NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$ ,  $-NR^6SO_2R^8$ ,  $-COOR^6$ ,

$-\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{COR}^6$ ,  $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}\text{R}^9$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{COOR}^6$ ,  
 $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-(\text{lower alkylene})\text{COOR}^6$  and  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{COOR}^6$ ;

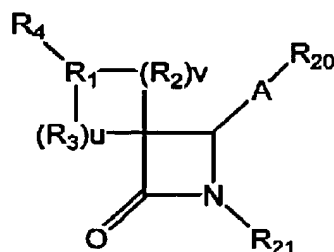
$\text{R}^5$  is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of  
 $-\text{OR}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{R}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-5}\text{OR}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{R}^7$ ,  
 $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{R}^9$ ,  $-\text{COOR}^6$ ,  $-\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{COR}^6$ ,  
 $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}\text{R}^9$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{COOR}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{CF}_3$ ,  $-\text{CN}$ ,  $-\text{NO}_2$ ,  
 halogen,  
 $-(\text{lower alkylene})\text{COOR}^6$  and  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{COOR}^6$ ;

$\text{R}^6$ ,  $\text{R}^7$  and  $\text{R}^8$  are independently selected from the group consisting of  
 hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted lower alkyl;

$\text{R}^9$  is lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl; and

$\text{R}^{10}$  is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of  
 lower alkyl,  $-\text{OR}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{R}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-5}\text{OR}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  
 $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{R}^9$ ,  $-\text{COOR}^6$ ,  
 $-\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{COR}^6$ ,  $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}\text{R}^9$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{COOR}^6$ ,  
 $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{CF}_3$ ,  $-\text{CN}$ ,  $-\text{NO}_2$  and halogen.

7. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, where the at least  
 one sterol absorption inhibitor is represented by Formula (VI):



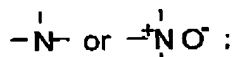
(VI)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the  
 compounds of Formula (VI) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds  
 of Formula (VI) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein:

$\text{R}_1$  is

$-\text{CH}-$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{lower alkyl})-$ ,  $-\text{CF}-$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{OH})-$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)-$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{R}_{15})-$ .





R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of:

-CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH(lower alkyl)-, -C(di-lower alkyl)-, -CH=CH- and -C(lower alkyl)=CH-; or R<sub>1</sub> together with an adjacent R<sub>2</sub>, or R<sub>1</sub> together with an adjacent R<sub>3</sub>, form a -CH=CH- or a -CH=C(lower alkyl)- group;

u and v are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero; provided that when R<sub>2</sub> is -CH=CH- or -C(lower alkyl)=CH-, v is 1; provided that when R<sub>3</sub> is -CH=CH- or -C(lower alkyl)=CH-, u is 1; provided that when v is 2 or 3, the R<sub>2</sub>'s can be the same or different; and provided that when u is 2 or 3, the R<sub>3</sub>'s can be the same or different;

R<sub>4</sub> is selected from B-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>C(O)-, wherein m is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

B-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-, wherein q is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

B-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>e</sub>-Z-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-, wherein Z is -O-, -C(O)-, phenylene, -N(R<sub>8</sub>)- or -S(O)<sub>0-2</sub>-, e is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 and r is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, provided that the sum of e and r is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

B-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenylene)-;

B-(C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkadienylene)-;

B-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>t</sub>-Z-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenylene)-, wherein Z is as defined above, and wherein t is 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided that the sum of t and the number of carbon atoms in the alkenylene chain is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

B-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>f</sub>-V-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>g</sub>-, wherein V is C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkylene, f is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 and g is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, provided that the sum of f and g is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

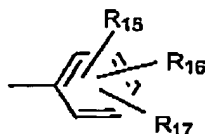
B-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>t</sub>-V-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenylene)- or

B-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenylene)-V-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>t</sub>-, wherein V and t are as defined above, provided that the sum of t and the number of carbon atoms in the alkenylene chain is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

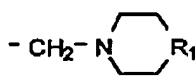
B-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>a</sub>-Z-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>b</sub>-V-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>d</sub>-, wherein Z and V are as defined above and a, b and d are independently 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, provided that the sum of a, b and d is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; or T-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-, wherein T is cycloalkyl of 3-6 carbon atoms and s is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; or

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> together form the group  $\text{B}-\overset{|}{\text{CH}}=\overset{|}{\text{C}}-$  ;

B is selected from indanyl, indenyl, naphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, heteroaryl or W-substituted heteroaryl, wherein heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyrrolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, thienyl, oxazolyl and furanyl, and for nitrogen-containing heteroaryls, the N-oxides thereof, or



W is 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxyalkoxy, (lower alkoxyimino)-lower alkyl, lower alkanedioyl, lower alkyl lower alkanedioyl, allyloxy, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OCF<sub>3</sub>, benzyl, R<sub>7</sub>-benzyl, benzyloxy, R<sub>7</sub>-benzyloxy, phenoxy, R<sub>7</sub>-phenoxy, dioxolanyl, NO<sub>2</sub>, -N(R<sub>8</sub>)(R<sub>9</sub>), N(R<sub>8</sub>)(R<sub>9</sub>)-lower alkylene-, N(R<sub>8</sub>)(R<sub>9</sub>)-lower alkyleneoxy-, OH, halogeno, -CN, -N<sub>3</sub>, -NHC(O)OR<sub>10</sub>, -NHC(O)R<sub>10</sub>, R<sub>11</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SNH-, (R<sub>11</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S)<sub>2</sub>N-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, -S(O)<sub>0-2</sub>R<sub>8</sub>, tert-butyl dimethyl-silyloxymethyl, -C(O)R<sub>12</sub>, -COOR<sub>19</sub>, -CON(R<sub>8</sub>)(R<sub>9</sub>), -CH=CHC(O)R<sub>12</sub>, -lower alkylene-C(O)R<sub>12</sub>, R<sub>10</sub>C(O)(lower alkyleneoxy)-,

N(R<sub>8</sub>)(R<sub>9</sub>)C(O)(lower alkyleneoxy)- and  for substitution on ring carbon atoms,

and the substituents on the substituted heteroaryl ring nitrogen atoms, when present, are selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, -C(O)OR<sub>10</sub>, -C(O)R<sub>10</sub>, OH, N(R<sub>8</sub>)(R<sub>9</sub>)-lower alkylene-, N(R<sub>8</sub>)(R<sub>9</sub>)-lower alkyleneoxy-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> and 2-(trimethylsilyl)-ethoxymethyl;

R<sub>7</sub> is 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, -COOH, NO<sub>2</sub>, -N(R<sub>8</sub>)(R<sub>9</sub>), OH, and halogeno;

R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently selected from H or lower alkyl;

R<sub>10</sub> is selected from lower alkyl, phenyl, R<sub>7</sub>-phenyl, benzyl or R<sub>7</sub>-benzyl;

R<sub>11</sub> is selected from OH, lower alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, R<sub>7</sub>-phenyl or R<sub>7</sub>-benzyl;

R<sub>12</sub> is selected from H, OH, alkoxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy,

, -N(R<sub>8</sub>)(R<sub>9</sub>), lower alkyl, phenyl or R<sub>7</sub>-phenyl;

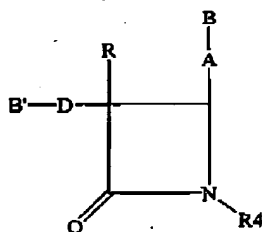
R<sub>13</sub> is selected from -O-, -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -NH-, -N(lower alkyl)- or -NC(O)R<sub>19</sub>;

R15, R16 and R17 are independently selected from the group consisting of H and the groups defined for W; or R15 is hydrogen and R16 and R17, together with adjacent carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a dioxolanyl ring;

R19 is H, lower alkyl, phenyl or phenyl lower alkyl; and

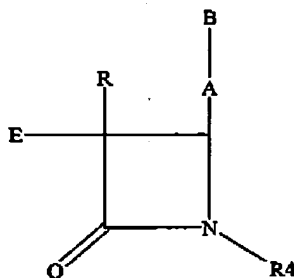
R20 and R21 are independently selected from the group consisting of phenyl, W-substituted phenyl, naphthyl, W-substituted naphthyl, indanyl, indenyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, benzodioxolyl, heteroaryl, W-substituted heteroaryl, benzofused heteroaryl, W-substituted benzofused heteroaryl and cyclopropyl, wherein heteroaryl is as defined above.

8. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one sterol absorption inhibitor is represented by Formula (VIIA) or (VIIB):



(VIIA)

and

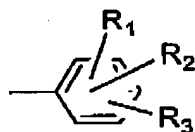


(VIIB)

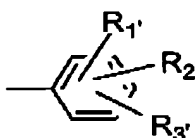
or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (VIIA) or Formula (VIIB) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (VIIA) or Formula (VIIB) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein in Formula (VIIA) and Formula (VIIB):

A is  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ ,  $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$  or  $-(\text{CH}_2)_p-$  wherein p is 0, 1 or 2;

B is



B' is



D is  $-(CH_2)_mC(O)-$  or  $-(CH_2)_q-$  wherein m is 1, 2, 3 or 4 and q is 2, 3 or 4;

E is C<sub>10</sub> to C<sub>20</sub> alkyl or  $-C(O)-(C_9 \text{ to } C_{19})\text{-alkyl}$ , wherein the alkyl is straight or branched, saturated or containing one or more double bonds;

R is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>15</sub> alkyl, straight or branched, saturated or containing one or more double bonds, or  $B-(CH_2)_r-$ , wherein r is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>1'</sub>, R<sub>2'</sub>, and R<sub>3'</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, carboxy, NO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>2</sub>, OH, halogeno, lower alkylamino, dilower alkylamino,  $-NHC(O)OR_5$ ,  $R_6O_2SNH-$  and  $-S(O)_2NH_2$ ;

R<sub>4</sub> is

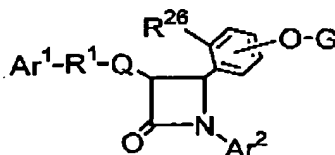


wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R<sub>5</sub> is lower alkyl; and

R<sub>6</sub> is OH, lower alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or substituted phenyl wherein the substituents are 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, carboxy, NO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>2</sub>, OH, halogeno, lower alkylamino and dilower alkylamino.

9. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (VIII):

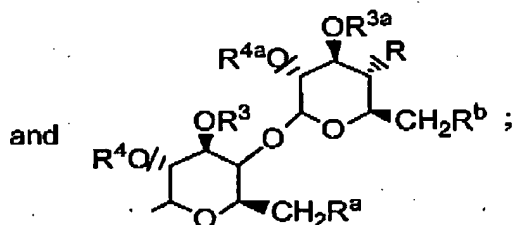
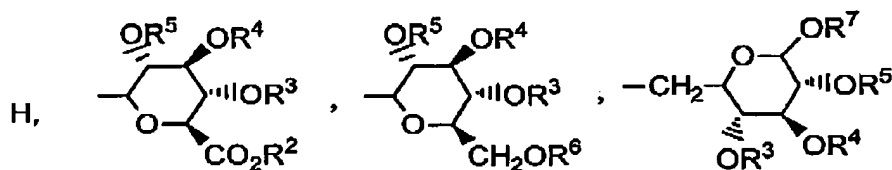


(VIII)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (VIII) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (VIII) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (VIII) above,

R<sup>26</sup> is H or OG<sup>1</sup>;

G and G<sup>1</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of



provided that when R<sup>26</sup> is H or

OH, G is not H;

R, R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of H, -OH, halogeno, -NH<sub>2</sub>, azido, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkoxy or -W-R<sup>30</sup>;

W is independently selected from the group consisting of -NH-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-N(R<sup>31</sup>)-, -NH-C(O)-N(R<sup>31</sup>)- and -O-C(S)-N(R<sup>31</sup>)-;

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, aryl and aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl;

R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>3a</sup> and R<sup>4a</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -C(O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl and -C(O)aryl;

R<sup>30</sup> is selected from the group consisting of R<sup>32</sup>-substituted T, R<sup>32</sup>-substituted-T-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, R<sup>32</sup>-substituted-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkenyl, R<sup>32</sup>-substituted-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, R<sup>32</sup>-substituted-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl and R<sup>32</sup>-substituted-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl;

R<sup>31</sup> is selected from the group consisting of H and (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;


T is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl and pyridyl;

R<sup>32</sup> is independently selected from 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halogeno, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, -OH, phenoxy, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy, methylenedioxy, oxo, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylsulfanyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylsulfinyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylsulfonyl, -N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -C(O)-NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, -C(O)-N((C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(O)-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, -C(O)-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy and pyrrolidinylcarbonyl; or R<sup>32</sup> is a covalent bond and R<sup>31</sup>, the nitrogen to which it is attached and R<sup>32</sup> form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methyl-piperazinyl, indoliny or morpholiny group, or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxycarbonyl-substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methylpiperazinyl, indoliny or morpholiny group;

**Ar<sup>1</sup> is aryl or R<sup>10</sup>-substituted aryl;**

**Ar<sup>2</sup> is aryl or R<sup>11</sup>-substituted aryl:**

**Q is a bond or, with the 3-position ring carbon of the azetidinone,**

forms the spiro group  $(R^{14})_b$  ; and

**R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of**

$-(CH_2)_q-$ , wherein q is 2-6, provided that when Q forms a spiro ring, q can also be zero or 1;

$-(CH_2)_e-E-(CH_2)_r$ , wherein E is  $-O-$ ,  $-C(O)-$ , phenylene,  $-NR^{22}-$  or  $-S(O)_0-2-$ , e is 0-5 and r is 0-5, provided that the sum of e and r is 1-6;

-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenylene-; and

$-(CH_2)_f-V-(CH_2)_g-$ , wherein V is C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkylene, f is 1-5 and g is 0-5, provided that the sum of f and g is 1-6;

**R<sup>12</sup> is**

$$-\overset{|}{\text{CH}}-, -\overset{|}{\text{C}}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6 \text{ alkyl})-, -\overset{|}{\text{CF}}-, -\overset{|}{\text{C}}(\text{OH})-, -\overset{|}{\text{C}}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-R}^{23})-, -\overset{|}{\text{N}}-, \text{ or } -\overset{|}{\text{NO}}^+;$$

R<sup>13</sup> and R<sup>14</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)-, -C(di-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl))-, -CH=CH- and

-C(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)=CH-; or R<sup>12</sup> together with an adjacent R<sup>13</sup>, or R<sup>12</sup> together with an adjacent R<sup>14</sup>, form a -CH=CH- or a -CH=C(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)- group;

a and b are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero;

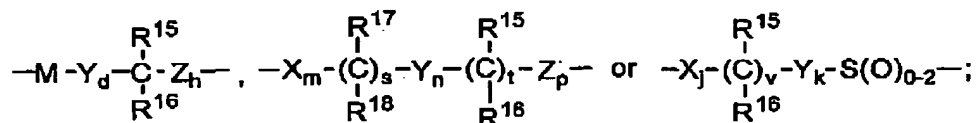
provided that when R<sup>13</sup> is -CH=CH- or -C(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)=CH-, a is 1;

provided that when R<sup>14</sup> is -CH=CH- or -C(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)=CH-, b is 1;

provided that when a is 2 or 3, the R<sup>13</sup>'s can be the same or different; and

provided that when b is 2 or 3, the R<sup>14</sup>'s can be the same or different;

and when Q is a bond, R<sup>1</sup> also can be:



M is -O-, -S-, -S(O)- or -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-;

X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl)- and -C(di-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl)-);

R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -OR<sup>19</sup>, -O(CO)R<sup>19</sup>, -O(CO)OR<sup>21</sup>, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-5</sub>OR<sup>19</sup>, -O(CO)NR<sup>19</sup>R<sup>20</sup>, -NR<sup>19</sup>R<sup>20</sup>, -NR<sup>19</sup>(CO)R<sup>20</sup>, -NR<sup>19</sup>(CO)OR<sup>21</sup>, -NR<sup>19</sup>(CO)NR<sup>20</sup>R<sup>25</sup>, -NR<sup>19</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>21</sup>, -COOR<sup>19</sup>, -CONR<sup>19</sup>R<sup>20</sup>, -COR<sup>19</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>19</sup>R<sup>20</sup>, S(O)<sub>0-2</sub>R<sup>21</sup>, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-10</sub>-COOR<sup>19</sup>, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-10</sub>CONR<sup>19</sup>R<sup>20</sup>, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)-COOR<sup>19</sup>, -CH=CH-COOR<sup>19</sup>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -CN, -NO<sub>2</sub> and halogen;

R<sup>15</sup> and R<sup>17</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of -OR<sup>19</sup>, -O(CO)R<sup>19</sup>, -O(CO)OR<sup>21</sup> and -O(CO)NR<sup>19</sup>R<sup>20</sup>;

R<sup>16</sup> and R<sup>18</sup> are Independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl and aryl; or R<sup>15</sup> and R<sup>16</sup> together are =O, or R<sup>17</sup> and R<sup>18</sup> together are =O;

d is 1, 2 or 3;

h is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

s is 0 or 1; t is 0 or 1; m, n and p are independently 0-4;

provided that at least one of s and t is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, s and t is 1-6;

provided that when p is 0 and t is 1, the sum of m, s and n is 1-5; and  
 provided that when p is 0 and s is 1, the sum of m, t and n is 1-5;  
 v is 0 or 1;  
 j and k are independently 1-5, provided that the sum of j, k and v is 1-5;

and when Q is a bond and R<sup>1</sup> is 
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{R}^{15} \\ | \\ -\text{X}_j-(\text{C})_v-\text{Y}_k-\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}- \\ | \\ \text{R}^{16} \end{array}$$
, Ar<sup>1</sup> can also be pyridyl, isoxazolyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl;

R<sup>19</sup> and R<sup>20</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl;

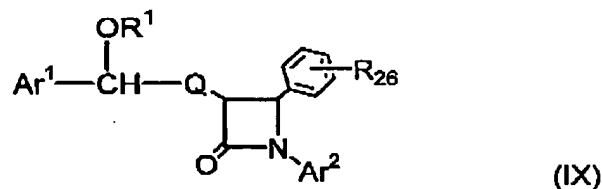
R<sup>21</sup> is (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, aryl or R<sup>24</sup>-substituted aryl;

R<sup>22</sup> is H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, aryl (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -C(O)R<sup>19</sup> or -COOR<sup>19</sup>;

R<sup>23</sup> and R<sup>24</sup> are independently 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, -COOH, NO<sub>2</sub>, -NR<sup>19</sup>R<sup>20</sup>, -OH and halogeno; and

R<sup>25</sup> is H, -OH or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy.

10. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (IX):



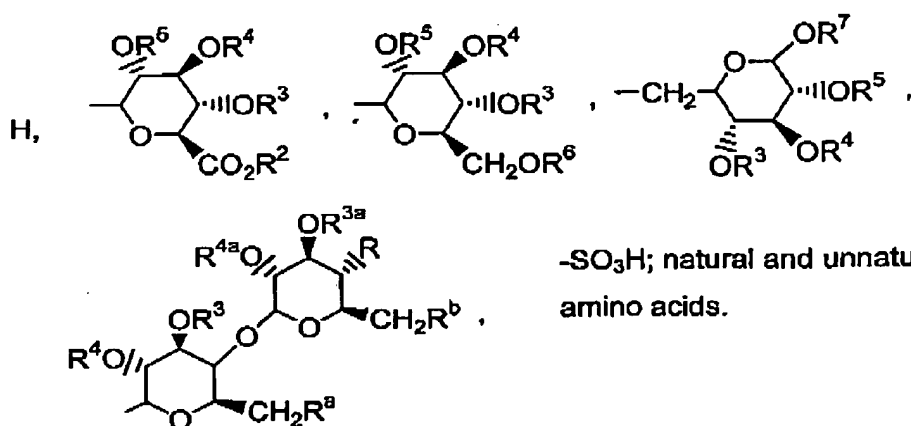
or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (IX) or of the isomers thereof, or prodrugs of the compounds of Formula (IX) or of the isomers, salts or solvates thereof, wherein, in Formula (IX) above,

R<sup>26</sup> is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) OH;
- b) OCH<sub>3</sub>;
- c) fluorine and
- d) chlorine.



R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of



-SO<sub>3</sub>H; natural and unnatural amino acids.

R, R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of H, -OH, halogeno, -NH<sub>2</sub>, azido, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkoxy and -W-R<sup>30</sup>;

W is independently selected from the group consisting of -NH-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-N(R<sup>31</sup>)-, -NH-C(O)-N(R<sup>31</sup>)- and -O-C(S)-N(R<sup>31</sup>)-;

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, aryl and aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl;

R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>3a</sup> and R<sup>4a</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -C(O)(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl and -C(O)aryl;

R<sup>30</sup> is independently selected from the group consisting of R<sup>32</sup>-substituted T, R<sup>32</sup>-substituted-T-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, R<sup>32</sup>-substituted-(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkenyl, R<sup>32</sup>-substituted-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, R<sup>32</sup>-substituted-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl and R<sup>32</sup>-substituted-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl;

R<sup>31</sup> is independently selected from the group consisting of H and (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

T is independently selected from the group consisting of phenyl, furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl and pyridyl;

R<sup>32</sup> is independently selected from 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogeno, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, -OH, phenoxy, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy, methylenedioxy, oxo, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylsulfanyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylsulfinyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylsulfonyl, -N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -C(O)-NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, -C(O)-N((C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>.

-C(O)-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, -C(O)-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy and pyrrolidinylcarbonyl; or R<sup>32</sup> is a covalent bond and R<sup>31</sup>, the nitrogen to which it is attached and R<sup>32</sup> form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methyl-piperazinyl, indolinyl or morpholinyl group, or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxycarbonyl-substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, N-methylpiperazinyl, indolinyl or morpholinyl group;

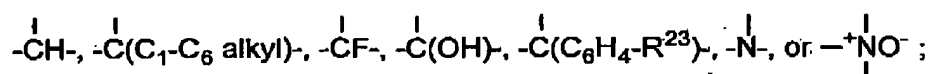
Ar<sup>1</sup> is aryl, R<sup>10</sup>-substituted aryl; pyridyl, isoxazolyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl;

Ar<sup>2</sup> is aryl or R<sup>11</sup>-substituted aryl;

Q is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-, wherein q is 2-6, or, with the 3-position ring carbon of the azetidinone,



R<sup>12</sup> is



R<sup>13</sup> and R<sup>14</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)-, -C(di-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>) alkyl)-, -CH=CH- and -C(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)=CH-; or R<sup>12</sup> together with an adjacent R<sup>13</sup>, or R<sup>12</sup> together with an adjacent R<sup>14</sup>, form a -CH=CH- or a -CH=C(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)- group;

a and b are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided both are not zero; provided that when R<sup>13</sup> is -CH=CH- or -C(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)=CH-, a is 1; provided that when R<sup>14</sup> is -CH=CH- or -C(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl)=CH-, b is 1; provided that when a is 2 or 3, the R<sup>13</sup>'s can be the same or different; and provided that when b is 2 or 3, the R<sup>14</sup>'s can be the same or different;

R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -OR<sup>19</sup>, -O(CO)R<sup>19</sup>, -O(CO)OR<sup>21</sup>, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-5</sub>OR<sup>19</sup>, -O(CO)NR<sup>19</sup>R<sup>20</sup>, -NR<sup>19</sup>R<sup>20</sup>, -NR<sup>19</sup>(CO)R<sup>20</sup>, -NR<sup>19</sup>(CO)OR<sup>21</sup>, -NR<sup>19</sup>(CO)NR<sup>20</sup>R<sup>25</sup>, -NR<sup>19</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>21</sup>, -COOR<sup>19</sup>,

-CONR<sup>19</sup>R<sup>20</sup>, -COR<sup>19</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>19</sup>R<sup>20</sup>, -S(O)<sub>0-2</sub>R<sup>21</sup>, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-10</sub>-COOR<sup>19</sup>,  
-O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-10</sub>CONR<sup>19</sup>R<sup>20</sup>, -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene)-COOR<sup>19</sup>, -CH=CH-COOR<sup>19</sup>, -CF<sub>3</sub>,  
-CN, -NO<sub>2</sub> and halogen;

R<sup>19</sup> and R<sup>20</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl;

R<sup>21</sup> is (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, aryl or R<sup>24</sup>-substituted aryl;

R<sup>22</sup> is H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, aryl (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, -C(O)R<sup>19</sup> or -COOR<sup>19</sup>;

R<sup>23</sup> and R<sup>24</sup> are independently 1-3 groups independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, -COOH, NO<sub>2</sub>, -NR<sup>19</sup>R<sup>20</sup>, -OH and halogeno; and

R<sup>25</sup> is H, -OH or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy.

11. (Cancel).

12. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 11, wherein the at least one cardiovascular agent is an adrenergic blocker.

13. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 12, wherein the adrenergic blocker is an  $\alpha$ -receptor inhibitor selected from the group consisting of fenspiride hydrochloride, labetalol hydrochloride, proroxan, alfuzosin hydrochloride and combinations thereof.

14. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 12, wherein the adrenergic blocker is a  $\beta$ -receptor inhibitor selected from the group consisting of acebutolol, acebutolol hydrochloride, alprenolol hydrochloride, atenolol, bunolol hydrochloride, carteolol hydrochloride, celiprolol hydrochloride, cetamolol hydrochloride, cicloprolol hydrochloride, dexpropranolol hydrochloride, diacetolol hydrochloride, dilevalol hydrochloride, esmolol hydrochloride, exaprolol hydrochloride, fleistol sulfate, labetalol hydrochloride, levobetaxolol hydrochloride, levobunolol hydrochloride, metalol hydrochloride, metoprolol, metoprolol tartrate, nadolol, pamatolol sulfate, penbutolol sulfate, practolol, propranolol hydrochloride, sotalol hydrochloride, timolol, timolol maleate, tiprenolol hydrochloride, tolamolol, bisoprolol, bisoprolol fumarate, nebivolol and combinations thereof.

15. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 12, wherein the adrenergic blocker is selected from the group consisting of bretylium tosylate, dihydroergotamine mesylate, phentolamine mesylate, solypertine tartrate, zolertine hydrochloride, carvedilol, labetalol hydrochloride and combinations thereof.
16. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 11, wherein the at least one cardiovascular agent is a calcium channel blocker.
17. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 16, wherein the calcium channel blocker is selected from the group consisting of clentiazem maleate, amlodipine besylate, isradipine, nimodipine, felodipine, nilvadipine, nifedipine, teludipine hydrochloride, diltiazem hydrochloride, belfosdil, verapamil hydrochloride, fostedil and combinations thereof.
18. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 11, wherein the at least one cardiovascular agent is an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor.
19. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 18, wherein the angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of benazepril hydrochloride, benazeprilat, captopril, delapril hydrochloride, fosinopril sodium, libenzapril, moexipril hydrochloride, pentopril, perindopril, quinapril hydrochloride, quinaprilat, ramipril, spirapril hydrochloride, spiraprilat, teprotide, enalapril maleate, lisinopril, zofenopril calcium, perindopril erbumine and combinations thereof.
20. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 11, wherein the at least one cardiovascular agent is an adrenergic stimulant.
21. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 20, wherein the adrenergic stimulant is selected from the group consisting of the combination product of chlorothiazide and methyldopa, the combination product of methyldopa hydrochlorothiazide and methyldopa, clonidine hydrochloride, clonidine, the combination product of chlorthalidone and clonidine hydrochloride, guanfacine hydrochloride, and combinations thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 14, wherein the at least one cardiovascular agent is an antihypertensive agent.

23. (Original) The composition according to claim 22, wherein the antihypertensive agent is selected from the group consisting of althiazide, benzthiazide, captopril, carvedilol, chlorothiazide sodium, clonidine hydrochloride, cyclothiazide, delapril hydrochloride, dilevalol hydrochloride, doxazosin mesylate, fosinopril sodium, guanfacine hydrochloride, methyldopa, metoprolol succinate, moexipril hydrochloride, monatepil maleate, pelanserine hydrochloride, phenoxybenzamine hydrochloride, prazosin hydrochloride, primidolol, quinapril hydrochloride, quinaprilat, ramipril, terazosin hydrochloride, candesartan, candesartan cilexetil, telmisartan, amlodipine besylate, amlodipine maleate, bevantolol hydrochloride and combinations thereof.

24. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 11, wherein the at least one cardiovascular agent is an angiotensin II receptor antagonist.

25. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 24, wherein the angiotensin II receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of candesartan, irbesartan, losartan potassium, candesartan cilexetil, telmisartan and combinations thereof.

26. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 11, wherein the at least one cardiovascular agent is an anti-anginal agent.

27. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 26, wherein the anti-anginal agent is selected from the group consisting of amlodipine besylate, amlodipine maleate, betaxolol hydrochloride, bevantolol hydrochloride, butopropine hydrochloride, carvedilol, cinepazet maleate, metoprolol succinate, molsidomine, monatepil maleate, primidolol, ranolazine hydrochloride, tofen, verapamil hydrochloride and combinations thereof.

28. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 11, wherein the at least one cardiovascular agent is a coronary vasodilator.

22

29. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 28, wherein the coronary vasodilator is selected from the group consisting of fostedil, azaclozine hydrochloride, chromonaf hydrochloride, clonitrate, diltiazem hydrochloride, dipyridamole, droprenilamine, erythrityl tetranitrate, Isosorbide dinitrate, Isosorbide mononitrate, lidoflazine, mioflazine hydrochloride, mixidine, molsidomine, nicorandil, nifedipine, nisoldipine, nitroglycerine, oxprenolol hydrochloride, pentrinitrol, perhexiline maleate, prenylamine, propatyl nitrate, terodiline hydrochloride, tolamolol, verapamil and combinations thereof.

30. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 11, wherein the at least one cardiovascular agent is a diuretic.

31. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 30, wherein the diuretic is selected from the group consisting of the combination product of hydrochlorothiazide and spironolactone and the combination product of hydrochlorothiazide and triamterene.

32. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one cardiovascular agent is labetalol hydrochloride.

33. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one cardiovascular agent for treating vascular conditions is administered to a mammal in an amount ranging from about 50 to about 3000 milligrams of cardiovascular agent per day.

34. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one sterol absorption inhibitor is administered to a mammal in an amount ranging from about 0.1 to about 1000 milligrams of sterol absorption inhibitor per day.

35. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor.

36. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 35, wherein the at least one cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor comprises at least one HMG CoA reductase inhibitor.

37. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 36 wherein the at least one HMG CoA reductase inhibitor comprises lovastatin, pravastatin, fluvastatin, simvastatin, atorvastatin, rosuvastatin, rivastatin, cerivastatin and mixtures thereof.

38. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 37, wherein the at least one HMG CoA reductase inhibitor comprises simvastatin.

39. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one bile acid sequestrant.

40. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one AcylCoA:Cholesterol O-acyltransferase Inhibitor.

41. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising probucol or a derivative thereof.

42. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one low-density lipoprotein receptor activator.

43. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one Omega 3 fatty acid.

44. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one natural water soluble fiber.

45. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one antioxidant or vitamin.

46. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of vascular conditions, obesity, diabetes or lowering a concentration of a sterol in

24

plasma of a mammal, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

47. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing vascular conditions, diabetes, obesity or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need of such treatment:

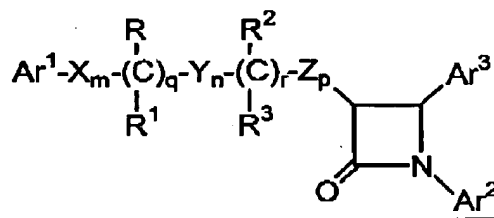
(a) an effective amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof or prodrug of the at least one sterol absorption inhibitor or of the salt or solvate thereof; and

(b) an effective amount of at least one cardiovascular agent which is different from the sterol absorption inhibitor.

48. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 47, wherein the vascular condition is hyperlipidemia.

49. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic combination comprising:

(a) a first amount of at least one sterol absorption inhibitor represented by Formula (I):



(I)

or isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of the compounds of Formula (I) or of the isomers thereof,

wherein:

Ar<sup>1</sup> and Ar<sup>2</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl and R<sup>4</sup>-substituted aryl;

Ar<sup>3</sup> is aryl or R<sup>5</sup>-substituted aryl;

X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH(lower alkyl)- and -C(dilower alkyl)-;

R and R<sup>2</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of -OR<sup>6</sup>.



$-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{R}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$  and  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ;

$\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and aryl;

$q$  is 0 or 1;

$r$  is 0 or 1;

$m$ ,  $n$  and  $p$  are independently selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; provided that at least one of  $q$  and  $r$  is 1, and the sum of  $m$ ,  $n$ ,  $p$ ,  $q$  and  $r$  is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; and provided that when  $p$  is 0 and  $r$  is 1, the sum of  $m$ ,  $q$  and  $n$  is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

$\text{R}^4$  is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl,  $-\text{OR}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{R}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-5}\text{OR}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{R}^9$ ,  $-\text{COOR}^6$ ,  $-\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{COR}^6$ ,  $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{S}(\text{O})_{2-2}\text{R}^9$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{COOR}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-(\text{lower alkylene})\text{COOR}^6$ ,  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{COOR}^6$ ,  $-\text{CF}_3$ ,  $-\text{CN}$ ,  $-\text{NO}_2$  and halogen;

$\text{R}^5$  is 1-5 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{OR}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{R}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-5}\text{OR}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{OR}^9$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6(\text{CO})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$ ,  $-\text{NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{R}^9$ ,  $-\text{COOR}^6$ ,  $-\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-\text{COR}^6$ ,  $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{S}(\text{O})_{2-2}\text{R}^9$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{COOR}^6$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_{1-10}\text{CONR}^6\text{R}^7$ ,  $-(\text{lower alkylene})\text{COOR}^6$  and  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{COOR}^6$ ;

$\text{R}^6$ ,  $\text{R}^7$  and  $\text{R}^8$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl and aryl-substituted lower alkyl; and

$\text{R}^9$  is lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl

or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof or prodrug of the at least one sterol absorption inhibitor or of the salt or solvate thereof; and

(b) a second amount of at least one cardiovascular agent selected from the group consisting of channel blockers, adrenergic blockers, adrenergic stimulants, angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, antihypertensive agents, angiotensin II receptor antagonists, anti-anginal agents, coronary vasodilators, diuretics and combinations thereof different from the at least one sterol absorption inhibitor.

wherein the first amount and the second amount together comprise a therapeutically effective amount for the treatment or prevention of a vascular condition, obesity, diabetes or lowering a concentration of a sterol in plasma of a mammal.